

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY

Poland

SUBJECT

Observations in Gdansk (Danzig) Harbor

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1. At about noon on 11 May 1954, the Polish pilot boarded a ship near the Neufahrwasser leading buoy. No war vessels were seen when the Westerplatte harbor basin was passed. Only a few small pontoons and launches were hauled up on the bank. Two unidentified merchant ships lay in the Neufahrwasser customs-free basin. [redacted] ship was berthed at the tank storage quay on the Horn opposite the Schichau Shipyard.

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2. A searching party of 12 boarded the ship after it was tied up. The ship was searched for about 1 1/2 hours. The radio equipment, the binoculars, and the cameras were sealed. Searching operations in the cabins were carried out in a rather casual way and the same was the case with drawers and lockers. Newspapers and magazines were left untouched. On completion of the searching operations, a sentry carrying a rifle was posted at the gangway. Only the shipmaster was given the permission to go ashore, but did not leave the ship because of the short stay in the harbor.

3. The storage tank area in Danzig was about 250 meters long and between 80 and 90 meters wide. The area was surrounded by a wall of cement bricks on the landward side. This wall, which was between 2 1/2 and 3 meters high, had a gate large enough for a railroad track. It could not be determined that the gate was guarded. Four tanks, about 8 meters high and 12 meters in diameter, were in the area, which was fenced on the water front by a wire mesh of about the same height as the wall on the landward side. One wire mesh fences at the two loading and unloading stages had passage gates which could be locked. No pumping station was seen. The landing bridges projected about 20 meters into the river and were fitted with a small platform at their head bordered by dolphins. Two pipe lines, 6 inches in diameter, ran along the wooden bridges. The pipes were 6 inches in diameter, as could be determined from the shipboard connections, which are also 6 inches in diameter and needed no intermediate flanges. The pipe lines were laid above ground from the tanks to the bridges. Work in progress on the bank of the river indicated that three new bridges of the same kind were planned. Bordering dolphins had already been driven in the river about 20 meters from the bank. There were no indications that new tanks were under construction in the area ashore.

4. A total of 868 tons of benzol was taken on. The hourly delivery capacity of the two pipe lines was 217 tons. The workmen, who wore overalls, looked rather discontented. Only short talks over the rail were possible because the workers had no business aboard the ship. It was learned from the conversations that

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This ship was the second vessel which carried benzol to Western ports
after the war and that the first vessel had taken on its cargo 18 months
before.

5. [REDACTED] ILLEGIB

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